

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Kevin T. Jones, Melissa Beebe, Shafali Rastogi
Assignee: Dell Products L.P.
Title: Flexible Ordering of Inventory From Material Sources According to
Material Requirements for Manufacturing Operations
Serial No.: 09/774,330 Filing Date: January 31, 2001
Examiner: Susanna M. Diaz Group Art Unit: 3623
Docket No.: DC-02829 Customer No.: 33438

November 28, 2005

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APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR § 41.37

Dear Sir:

Applicant submits this Appeal Brief pursuant to the Notice of Appeal filed in this case on September 26, 2005. A check is enclosed which includes the \$500.00 fee for this Appeal Brief. The Board is also authorized to deduct any other amounts required for this appeal brief and to credit any amounts overpaid to Deposit Account. No. 502264.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(i)

The real party in interest is the assignee, Dell Products L.P., as named in the caption above and as evidenced by the assignment set forth at Reel 011825, Frame 0766.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(ii)

Based on information and belief, there are no appeals or interferences that could directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in the pending appeal.

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III. STATUS OF CLAIMS - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(iii)

Claims 1 - 31 are pending in the application. Claims 1 - 31 stand rejected. The rejection of claims 1 - 31 is appealed. Appendix "A" contains the full set of pending claims.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(iv)

No amendments after final have been requested or entered.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(v)

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 1, relates to a method for scheduling delivery of material to a manufacturer with a plurality of manufacturing lines (see e.g., Jones, Page 7, line 30 – Page 8, line 5) which includes determining a material requirement for an operation of at least one operation on a manufacturing line of the plurality of manufacturing lines(see e.g., Jones, Page 9, lines 12 – 18), the material requirement being based upon customer orders (see e.g., Jones, Page 9, lines 19 – 31), and scheduling delivery of material to meet the material requirement from an available inventory of material to the operation on the manufacturing line (see e.g., Jones 10, lines 1 – 6). Claim 17 relates to a computer system of similar scope. Claim 22 relates to a computer program product of similar scope. Claim 27 relates to a signal embodied in a carrier wave of similar scope.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 12, relates to a method for scheduling deliveries of material which includes obtaining a material requirement for an operation of at least one operation on a manufacturing line (see e.g., Jones Page 16, lines 12 – 15), the material requirement comprising an identified material that has a material need-by time and identifying a next truck scheduled for delivery to the operation, the next truck originating at a material source (see e.g., Jones Page 16, lines 15, 16). The method further includes determining whether a following truck scheduled for delivery to the operation after the next truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time of the material requirement (see e.g., Jones Page 16, lines 22 – 24), and when the following truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time, delaying processing of the material requirement (see e.g., Jones Page 16, lines 24 – 26). The method further includes that when the following truck has a

material delivery time after the material need-by time, determining whether a later opportunity to request the identified material exists, and if a later opportunity exists, delaying requesting the identified material and scheduling a delivery of the identified material (see e.g., Jones Page 16, lines 21 – 26), and if a later opportunity does not exist, requesting the identified material by adding the identified material to a material request for the next truck and scheduling a delivery of the identified material from the material source to the operation on the next truck (see e.g., Jones Page 16, lines 27 – page 17, lines 2).

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 13, relates to a method for scheduling deliveries of material which includes repeating a series of steps. The series of steps include obtaining a material requirement for an operation on a manufacturing line from a plurality of material requirements, each material requirement of the plurality of material requirements including an identified material and a material need-by time (see e.g. Jones Page 16, lines 3 – 18), and identifying a next truck scheduled for delivery to the operation, the next truck originating at a material source (see e.g., Jones Page 16, lines 15, 16). The series of steps further includes determining whether a following truck scheduled for delivery to the operation after the next truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time of the material requirement (see e.g., Jones Page 16, lines 22 – 24), and when the following truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time, delaying processing of the material requirement (see e.g., Jones Page 16, lines 24 – 26), and if the following truck has a material delivery time after the material need-by time, determining whether a later opportunity to request the identified material exists. When a later opportunity exists, delaying requesting the identified material and scheduling a delivery of the identified material (see e.g., Jones Page 16, lines 21 – 26), and if a later opportunity does not exist, requesting the identified material by adding the identified material to a material request for the next truck and scheduling a delivery of the identified material from the material source to the operation on the next truck (see e.g., Jones Page 16, lines 27 – page 17, lines 2). Claim 16 is of similar scope to claim 13 where the series of steps are repeated essentially continuously. Claim 21 relates to a computer system of similar scope to claim 16. Claim 26 relates to a computer program product of similar scope to claim 16. Claim 31 relates to a signal embodied in a carrier wave of similar scope to claim 16.

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(vi)

Claims 1 - 6 and 8 - 31 stand rejected under Mukhopadhyay, "Optimal Scheduling of Just-in-Time Purchase Deliveries," (Mukhopadhyay). Claim 7 stands rejected under Mukhopadhyay in view of Jenkins, et al., U.S. Publication No. US 2002/0188499 (Jenkins).

VII. ARGUMENT - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(vii)

Independent claims 1, 17, 22 and 27 are allowable over Mukhopadhyay

The present invention generally relates to scheduling delivery of materials from in-house and external inventories for use in manufacturing items. Deliveries are scheduled according to material requirements for manufacturing operations.

Mukhopadhyay discloses a just-in-time (JIT) system which addresses the issue of delayed or early delivery of materials to work centers that have limited unloading facilities. Mukhopadhyay provides a proposed solution to this issue via a methodology for obtaining optimal delivery schedules for JIT purchases. The methodology provides an algorithm based decision support system that provides unloading schedules which are suitable for daily JIT delivery planning.

More specifically, when discussing the JIT system for which the unloading schedules are provided, Mukhopadhyay sets forth:

A long-term projection of the requirement of each category is conveyed to each supplier every six months and updated every month for them to plan for procurement and supply. Every day the production planning department prepares a shop floor schedule for the following day's shop loading. Using the bill of material, this loading is broken down into requirements of various raw materials including the sizes and quantity. At noon this breakdown is transmitted electronically to the four suppliers who then get the materials ready for following day's delivery. In the morning the trucks arrive at the unloading dock where the materials are unloaded and taken directly to the shop for operations. Typically, ten to 15 truckloads arrive every morning. The system worked very well owing to the meticulous planning on the part of the staff and the excellent co-operation of the suppliers who have now got the hang of it and realize the benefits to themselves. But

all this is threatened because of one problem – the company has only one unloading dock. The planning is such that the trucks are given due time to coincide with the due time at the shop floor. When the trucks arrive in the morning, there is usually a queue of five to ten trucks waiting to be unloaded (due to the range of due times being very narrow). The unloading of many of the trucks is delayed, and some of the trucks are unloaded earlier than the scheduled production time. (Mukhopadhyay, Paragraph 7.)

To address this issue, Mukhopadhyay sets forth:

A decision support system is developed using the algorithm as the source of optimization, The [sic.] demonstrated speed of execution makes it possible for the planners to use it for generating the truck unloading schedule in seconds. They can then transmit this schedule to the suppliers along with their daily order list. The suppliers now know exactly when their particular truck is schedule to start and complete unloading. Any last minute changes can be easily accommodated by a quick rerun of the program. Given that the travel time is quite accurately known (even in cities with congestion like Chicago, local radio stations continually broadcast accurate current travel times between various points), suppliers can plan their loading and despatching [sic.] schedule accurately. (Mukhopadhyay, Paragraph 48.)

However Mukhopadhyay does not disclose a manufacturer with a plurality of manufacturing lines or scheduling delivery of material to meet the material requirement from an available inventory of material to the operation on the manufacturing line.

More specifically, Mukhopadhyay, taken alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest a method for scheduling delivery of material to a manufacturer with a plurality of manufacturing lines which includes determining a material requirement for an operation of at least one operation on a manufacturing line of the plurality of manufacturing lines, *the material requirement being based upon customer orders*, and scheduling delivery of material *to meet the material requirement from an available inventory of material to the operation on the manufacturing line*, all as required by claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Mukhopadhyay. Claims 2 - 11 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 17 – 20 and 22 – 25 are allowable for at least substantially the same reasons.

Independent claim 12, 13 and 16 are allowable over Mukhopadhyay

Mukhopadhyay is discussed above.

Mukhopadhyay does not disclose or suggest a method for scheduling deliveries of material which includes determining whether a following truck scheduled for delivery to an operation after a next truck has a material delivery time before a material need by time.

More specifically, Mukhopadhyay, taken alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest a method for scheduling deliveries of material which includes determining whether a following truck scheduled for delivery to an operation after a next truck has a material delivery time before a material need by time, much less *when a following truck has a material delivery time after the material need-by time, determining whether a later opportunity to request the identified material exists, and if a later opportunity exists, delaying requesting the identified material and scheduling a delivery of the identified material*, and if a later opportunity does not exist, requesting the identified material by adding the identified material to a material request for the next truck and scheduling a delivery of the identified material from the material source to the operation on the next truck, all as required by claim 12. Accordingly, claim 12 is allowable over Mukhopadhyay and Jenkins. Claims 21 and 31 are allowable for at least substantially the same reasons.

Additionally, Mukhopadhyay, taken alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest a method for scheduling deliveries of material which includes determining whether *a following truck scheduled for delivery to the operation after the next truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time of the material requirement, and when the following truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time, delaying processing of the material requirement*, and if the following truck has a material delivery time after the material need-by time, *determining whether a later opportunity to request the identified material exists*, much less *when a later opportunity exists, delaying requesting the identified material and scheduling a delivery of the identified material, and if a later opportunity does not exist, requesting the identified material by adding the identified material to a material request for the next truck and scheduling a delivery of the identified material from the material source to the operation on the next truck*, all as required by claim 13. Accordingly, claim 13 is allowable over Mukhopadhyay. Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13 and are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 26 – 30 are allowable for at least substantially the same reasons.

Additionally, Mukhopadhyay, taken alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest a method for scheduling deliveries of material which includes *determining whether a following truck scheduled for delivery to the operation after the next truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time of the material requirement, and when the following truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time, delaying processing of the material requirement, much less such a method that further includes when the following truck has a material delivery time after the material need-by time, determining whether a later opportunity to request the identified material exists, and if a later opportunity exists, delaying requesting the identified material and scheduling a delivery of the identified material and if a later opportunity does not exist, requesting the identified material by adding the identified material to a material request for the next truck and scheduling a delivery of the identified material from the material source to the operation on the next truck*, all as required by claim 16. Accordingly, claim 16 is allowable over Mukhopadhyay.

Claim 7 is allowable over Mukhopadhyay in view of Jenkins

Jenkins discloses a system for ensuring manufacturing order fulfillment, specifically addressing supply conflicts such as unexpected delays in production by rerouting and reapplying resources. More specifically, Jenkins discloses time-phased inventory plans that meet customer requirements by ensuring that a company is carrying the right inventory at the right locations. Jenkins discloses time-phased storage and flow of a given product's supply to match demand by creating an inventory strategy that includes deployment plans, master production schedules, and procurement requirements.

Claim 7 adds the limitation that the available inventory as claimed in claim 1 includes in-transit inventory.

Neither Mukhopadhyay and Jenkins, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a method for scheduling delivery of material to a manufacturer with a plurality of manufacturing lines which includes determining a material requirement for an operation of at least one operation on a manufacturing line of the plurality of manufacturing lines, *the material requirement being based upon customer orders*, and scheduling delivery of material *to meet the material requirement from an available inventory of material to the operation on the*

manufacturing line where *the available inventory includes in-transit inventory*, all as required by claim 7. Accordingly, claim 7 is allowable over Mukhopadhyay and Jenkins.

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(viii)

A copy of the pending claims involved in the appeal is attached as Appendix A.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(ix)

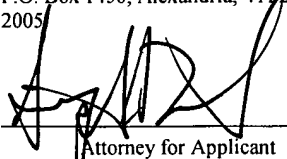
None

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(x)

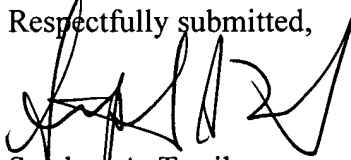
None.

XI. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that rejection of pending Claims 1 - 31 is unfounded, and requests that the rejection of claims 1 - 31 be reversed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents, Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 28, 2005.	
 _____ Attorney for Applicant	<u>11/28/05</u> _____ Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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CLAIMS APPENDIX - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(viii) - APPENDIX A

1. A method for scheduling delivery of material to a manufacturer with a plurality of manufacturing lines comprising:

determining a material requirement for an operation of at least one operation on a manufacturing line of the plurality of manufacturing lines, the material requirement being based upon customer orders, the determining being performed by a module executing on a computer system; and
scheduling delivery of material to meet the material requirement from an available inventory of material to the operation on the manufacturing line, the scheduling being performed by a module executing on a computer system.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the material requirement includes identified material and a material need-by time; and
the scheduled delivery of the material includes scheduled delivery of the identified material prior to the material need-by time.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
sending a material request for the material to meet the material requirement to a material source having the material;
and wherein
the material source is scheduled to deliver the material to meet the material requirement from the available inventory of material to the operation.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein
the material request includes a plurality of materials to meet a plurality of material requirements to be delivered by the material source, with each material requirement of the plurality of material requirements to be delivered at a specified material delivery time.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein
the available inventory includes at least one of a group consisting of:
an external inventory; and
an in-house inventory.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein external inventory comprises at least one of a
group consisting of the following:
a supplier inventory; and
a hub inventory.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein
the available inventory comprises an in-transit inventory.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein
at least one manufacturing line of the plurality of manufacturing lines is in each of at least
two factories.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein
at least two manufacturing lines of the plurality of manufacturing lines are in one factory.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein
at least two operations are on one manufacturing line of the plurality of manufacturing
lines.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein
the material requirement is for material for manufacturing a computer system; and
the available inventory includes material for manufacturing the computer system.
12. A method for scheduling deliveries of material comprising:
obtaining a material requirement for an operation of at least one operation on a
manufacturing line, the material requirement comprising an identified material

and a material need-by time, the obtaining being performed by a module executing on a computer system;

identifying a next truck scheduled for delivery to the operation, the next truck originating at a material source, the identifying being performed by a module executing on a computer system;

determining whether a following truck scheduled for delivery to the operation after the next truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time of the material requirement, the determining being performed by a module executing on a computer system, and

when the following truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time, delaying processing of the material requirement, and

when the following truck has a material delivery time after the material need-by time, determining whether a later opportunity to request the identified material exists, and

when a later opportunity exists, delaying requesting the identified material and scheduling a delivery of the identified material, and

when a later opportunity does not exist, requesting the identified material by adding the identified material to a material request for the next truck and scheduling a delivery of the identified material from the material source to the operation on the next truck.

13. A method for scheduling deliveries of material comprising:

repeating a series of steps, the series comprising:

obtaining a material requirement for an operation on a manufacturing line from a plurality of material requirements, each material requirement of the plurality of material requirements comprising an identified material and a material need-by time, the obtaining being performed by a module executing on a computer system;

identifying a next truck scheduled for delivery to the operation, the next truck originating at a material source, the identifying being performed by a module executing on a computer system;

determining whether a following truck scheduled for delivery to the operation after the next truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time of the material requirement, the determining being performed by a module executing on a computer system, and

when the following truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time, delaying processing of the material requirement, and

when the following truck has a material delivery time after the material need-by time, determining whether a later opportunity to request the identified material exists, and

when a later opportunity exists, delaying requesting the identified material and scheduling a delivery of the identified material, and

when a later opportunity does not exist, requesting the identified material by adding the identified material to a material request for the next truck and scheduling a delivery of the identified material from the material source to the operation on the next truck.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the repeating the series of steps is performed at a fixed time interval.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the repeating the series of steps is performed essentially continuously.

16. A method for scheduling deliveries of material comprising:
repeating a series of steps essentially continuously, the series comprising:
obtaining a material requirement for an operation on a manufacturing line from a plurality of material requirements, each material requirement of the plurality of material requirements comprising an identified material and a material need-by time, the obtaining being performed by a module executing on a computer system;
identifying a next truck scheduled for delivery to the operation, the next truck originating at a material source, the identifying being performed by a module executing on a computer system;

determining whether a following truck scheduled for delivery to the operation after the next truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time of the material requirement, the determining being performed by a module executing on a computer system, and
when the following truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time, delaying processing of the material requirement, and
when the following truck has a material delivery time after the material need-by time, determining whether a later opportunity to request the identified material exists, and
when a later opportunity exists, delaying requesting the identified material and scheduling a delivery of the identified material, and
when a later opportunity does not exist, requesting the identified material by adding the identified material to a material request for the next truck and scheduling a delivery of the identified material from the material source to the operation on the next truck.

17. A computer system comprising:
a processor; and
a memory, the memory storing instructions to be executed by the processor, the instructions comprising:
instructions for determining a material requirement for an operation of at least one operation on a manufacturing line of the plurality of manufacturing lines, the material requirement being based upon customer orders; and
instructions for scheduling delivery of material to meet the material requirement from an available inventory of material to the operation on the manufacturing line.

18. The computer system of claim 17 wherein:
the instructions for determining a material requirement include instructions for determining identified material and a material need-by time; and
the instructions for scheduling delivery of material include instructions for scheduling delivery of the identified material prior to the material need-by time.

19. The computer system of claim 17 further comprising:
instructions for sending a material request for the material to meet the material
requirement to a material source having the material;
and wherein
the instructions for scheduling delivery of material include instructions for scheduling the
material source to deliver the material to meet the material requirement from the
available inventory of material to the operation.
20. The computer system of claim 19 wherein
the instructions for sending the material request include instructions for sending the
material request for a plurality of materials to meet a plurality of material
requirements to be delivered by the material source, with each material
requirement of the plurality of material requirements to be delivered at a specified
material delivery time.
21. A computer system comprising:
a processor;
a memory, the memory storing instructions to be executed by the processor, the
instructions comprising:
instructions for repeating a series of steps essentially continuously;
instructions for each step in the series of steps comprising:
instructions for obtaining a material requirement for an operation of at least one operation
on a manufacturing line, the material requirement comprising an identified
material and a material need-by time;
instructions for identifying a next truck scheduled for delivery to the operation, the next
truck originating at a material source;
instructions for determining whether a following truck scheduled for delivery to the
operation after the next truck has a material delivery time before the material
need-by time of the material requirement;
instructions for delaying processing of the material requirement when the following truck
has a material delivery time before the material need-by time;

instructions for determining whether a later opportunity to request the identified material exists when the following truck has a material delivery time after the material need-by time;

instructions for delaying requesting the identified material and scheduling a delivery of the identified material when a later opportunity exists;

instructions for requesting the identified material by adding the identified material to a material request for the next truck when a later opportunity does not exist; and

instructions for scheduling a delivery of the identified material from the material source to the operation on the next truck when a later opportunity does not exist.

22. A computer program product for causing a computer system to execute instructions comprising:

instructions for determining a material requirement for an operation of at least one operation on a manufacturing line of the plurality of manufacturing lines;

instructions for scheduling delivery of material to meet the material requirement from an available inventory of material to the operation on the manufacturing line; and
a computer readable medium for storing the instructions for determining and the instructions for scheduling.

23. The computer program product of claim 22 wherein:

the instructions for determining a material requirement include instructions for determining identified material and a material need-by time; and

the instructions for scheduling delivery of material include instructions for scheduling delivery of the identified material prior to the material need-by time.

24. The computer program product of claim 22 further comprising:

instructions for sending a material request for the material to meet the material requirement to a material source having the material;

and wherein

the instructions for scheduling delivery of material include instructions for scheduling the material source to deliver the material to meet the material requirement from the available inventory of material to the operation.

25. The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the instructions for sending the material request include instructions for sending the material request for a plurality of materials to meet a plurality of material requirements to be delivered by the material source, with each material requirement of the plurality of material requirements to be delivered at a specified material delivery time.
26. A computer program product for causing a computer system to execute instructions comprising:
- instructions for repeating a series of steps essentially continuously;
 - instructions for each step in the series of steps comprising:
 - instructions for obtaining a material requirement for an operation of at least one operation on a manufacturing line, the material requirement comprising an identified material and a material need-by time;
 - instructions for identifying a next truck scheduled for delivery to the operation, the next truck originating at a material source;
 - instructions for determining whether a following truck scheduled for delivery to the operation after the next truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time of the material requirement;
 - instructions for delaying processing of the material requirement when the following truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time;
 - instructions for determining whether a later opportunity to request the identified material exists when the following truck has a material delivery time after the material need-by time;
 - instructions for delaying requesting the identified material and scheduling a delivery of the identified material when a later opportunity exists;
 - instructions for requesting the identified material by adding the identified material to a material request for the next truck when a later opportunity does not exist; and
 - instructions for scheduling a delivery of the identified material from the material source to the operation on the next truck when a later opportunity does not exist;
- and

a computer-readable medium for storing the instructions for repeating, the instructions for obtaining, the instructions for identifying, the instructions for determining whether a following truck scheduled for delivery to the operation after the next truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time of the material requirement, the instructions for delaying processing, the instructions for determining whether a later opportunity to request the identified material exists when the following truck has a material delivery time after the material need-by time, the instructions for delaying requesting, and the instructions for requesting, and the instructions for scheduling.

27. A signal embodied in a computer readable medium, the signal causing a computer system to execute instructions comprising:

instructions for determining a material requirement for an operation of at least one operation on a manufacturing line of the plurality of manufacturing lines; and instructions for scheduling delivery of material to meet the material requirement from an available inventory of material to the operation on the manufacturing line.

28. The signal of claim 27 wherein:

the instructions for determining a material requirement include instructions for determining identified material and a material need-by time; and the instructions for scheduling delivery of material include instructions for scheduling delivery of the identified material prior to the material need-by time.

29. The signal of claim 27 further comprising:

instructions for sending a material request for the material to meet the material requirement to a material source having the material;

and wherein

the instructions for scheduling delivery of material include instructions for scheduling the material source to deliver the material to meet the material requirement from the available inventory of material to the operation.

30. The signal of claim 29 wherein the instructions for sending the material request include instructions for sending the material request for a plurality of materials to meet a plurality of material requirements to be delivered by the material source, with each material requirement of the plurality of material requirements to be delivered at a specified material delivery time.

31. A signal embodied in a computer readable medium, the signal causing a computer system to execute instructions comprising:

instructions for repeating a series of steps essentially continuously;

instructions for each step in the series of steps comprising:

instructions for obtaining a material requirement for an operation of at least one operation on a manufacturing line, the material requirement comprising an identified material and a material need-by time;

instructions for identifying a next truck scheduled for delivery to the operation, the next truck originating at a material source;

instructions for determining whether a following truck scheduled for delivery to the operation after the next truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time of the material requirement;

instructions for delaying processing of the material requirement when the following truck has a material delivery time before the material need-by time;

instructions for determining whether a later opportunity to request the identified material exists when the following truck has a material delivery time after the material need-by time;

instructions for delaying requesting the identified material and scheduling a delivery of the identified material when a later opportunity exists;

instructions for requesting the identified material by adding the identified material to a material request for the next truck when a later opportunity does not exist; and

instructions for scheduling a delivery of the identified material from the material source to the operation on the next truck when a later opportunity does not exist.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(ix)

None

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(x)

There are no related proceedings.